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PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

Reunion and Camp-Fire

—OF THE—

Ia.

1ST IOWA BATTERY

ASSOCIATION,

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA,

September 21st and 22d,

1898

Including Some Other Matters of Interest
to "The Old Boys."

IRONTON, MO.:
Iron County Register Print,
1899.

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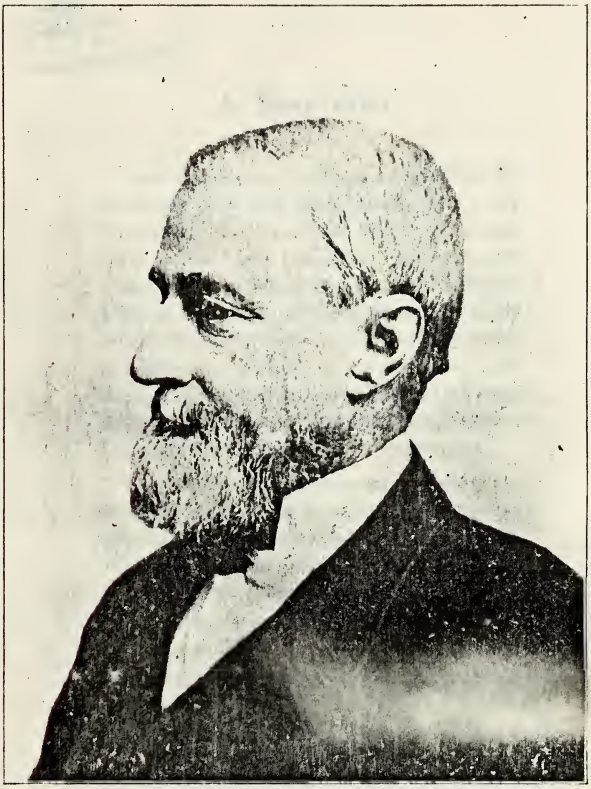

N. N. Griffith
Capt. 1st Jno. Batts
Conway

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A Souvenir.

The "counterfeit presentment" given on the preceding page will pass current with every Comrade of the First Iowa Battery. Though taken in life's sere and yellow leaf, when the sound of the grinders was low and the pitcher about to be broken at the fountain, it happily recalls the features known to us in the prime of manhood. The search for the photo and the making of the plate has delayed the publication of this little pamphlet, but to every Comrade the result will make atonement.

The scenes and incidents of the old days return to us as in the haze of a half-forgotten dream; but with affection's stronger memory are recalled the virtues of him who, in the exercise of the arduous duties of his position, stood *in loco parentis* to every member of his command.

CAPTAIN GRIFFITHS is now but a fading memory; but

"His bones are dust,
His good sword is rust,
His soul is with the saints, we trust,"

may be as reverently said of him as of any knightly paladin of old.

PREFATORY.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., July 30, 1899.

Dear Friend and Comrade:—In presenting to you this narrative of our last Reunion, it vividly calls to mind the grave and gay, serious and comical, feelings shown and expressed by comrades as they met and were introduced to each other. Nor is it strange that, after thirty-five years of separation, some should have so changed as to be unrecognizable to those who had been their daily companions for three years.

But it is really curious, remarkable even, that some have changed in appearance only in the substitution of gray or white hair for dark; or the portliness of middle life for that of slim boyishness, which many of us possessed in those "dark days in 1861-5."

However, we were more than brothers all the same. And the short hours we were permitted to be together were crowded with pleasures, which soon turned to dreams of loveliness and beauty, and will be ours while life lasts!

Our meetings, if not too infrequent, are all too short. The "How do you do?" and "Good-bye," are so close together that before we can become acquainted we are again separated, and soon our recollection of it all is more dim than many of our experiences while down in Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia.

Surely this is not one of the results of age! For that was not an old lot of Coffee Coolers who met in Council Bluffs last September, but a jolly, hilarious crowd of veterans who had given their youth in defense of the flag, and renewed the same by reviving the memories of those never-to-be-forgotten days "when we drank from the same canteen."

With not a word to mar the occasion; with enmity towards none, and charity to all, we met and parted the best of friends, hoping and wishing the best for each and all—

Go thou thy way and I go mine,
    Apart, yet not afar;
Only a thin veil hangs between
    The pathways where we are;
And "God keep watch 'twen thee and me"—
    This is my prayer;
He looks thy way, He looketh mine,
    And keeps us near.

I know not where thy road may lie,
Or which way mine may be;
If mine will lead through parching sands,
And thine beside the sea;
Yet God keeps watch 'tween thee and me,
So never fear.
He holds thy hand, He claspeth mine,
And keeps us near.

Should wealth and fame perchance be thine,
And my lot lowly be,
Or you be sad and sorrowful,
And glory be for me;
Yet God keep watch 'tween thee and me;
All be His care.
One arm round thee and one round me
Will keep us near.

On several occasions at our Reunions the subject of a history of our battery has been referred to, but has never resulted in anything. As a substitute for a detailed history, and as something which cannot fail to interest every member who reads it, I herewith append a statement which was dictated to and written by me and signed by the veteran Captain H. H. Griffiths, at Davenport, Iowa, in August, 1864.

HISTORICAL.

The Battery left Burlington under Captain Fletcher in December, 1861; and on arrival at St. Louis, Missouri, received its armaments and equipments of four six-pound bronze guns and two twelve-pound field howitzers.

Captain Fletcher left the Battery at St. Louis, which soon after went to Rolla, Missouri, and formed

part of the army under General Curtis. Fought at Pea Ridge, March 7th and 8th, 1862, and did good service. Reached Helena, Arkansas, via Batesville, July 14th, 1862. Formed part of General Steele's division, which left Helena, December 22nd, 1862. Fought at Chickasaw Bayou and Arkansas Post, did well and was honorably mentioned.

Left Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, April 13th, 1863; ran the blockade April 29th and fired the first shot of the Vicksburg campaign at Port Gibson on May 1st, at one o'clock at night. Took prominent part in that action, was complimented by General Carr, and General McClernand, commanding 13th Army Corps. Ordered back to General Steele's Division, helped capture Jackson, Mississippi, May, 1863. Fired the first shot in front of the rebel lines at Vicksburg, Mississippi, May 18th. Continued throughout the siege, firing 1300 rounds from each gun. Marched to Jackson, Mississippi, July 5th, at daylight; participated in the second capture of that place; pursued the enemy to Brandon, Mississippi, and arrived back at Big Black River Bridge, July 28th, 1863.

Left there September 22nd, via Vicksburg, Memphis and Corinth, for Chattanooga, Tennessee. Fought Forrest's rebel cavalry five days while on the way from Iuka to Tuscumbia, Alabama.

Opened fire at Lookout Mountain, November 24th. Crossed the mountain through much tribulation and fought at Missionary Ridge, November 25th. Returned to Woodville, January 1st, 1864, going into winter quarters.

Received ninety-three recruits for the Battery in January and February, 1864, and marched in 4th Division 15th Army Corps for Atlanta, Georgia, on the 1st of May. Fought at Resaca, May 15th, also at Dallas, May 28th, also at New Hope Church, June 1st, also at Kennasaw, June and July, 1864. Reached the rebel lines near Atlanta, July 20th, and had desperate fighting on the 20th, 21st and 22nd. Lost heavily but were victorious. Moved to our extreme right and were attacked on the 28th of July, and after hard fighting repulsed the enemy.

Advanced upon them until August 11th, 1864, when the Battery was ordered home to be mustered out of the service.

The campaign was a hard and trying one, and the whole army deserved great praise. Reached Davenport, Iowa, August 16th, and was mustered out on the 18th.

Throughout all our battles we never lost a single article by capture though sometimes hard pressed. Still can we say we have always been on the side of victory and have been complimented by every Brigade, Division, Army Corps and Army Commander that we have ever served under.

(Signed)

N. N. Griffith
Capt. 1st Iowa Batty
Conway

The further service of those of the old members of the Battery who re-enlisted and those who joined us at Woodville, Alabama, is, of course, not shown in the above sketch. To this unwritten history each one may contribute to suit himself, and leave no cause for complaint.

As heretofore, two copies of this pamphlet are sent to you. If you will take the trouble to go through it carefully and make corrections and suggestions and return one copy to me, I will collect all information and put in shape for the next Secretary, who, at our meeting in St. Louis, during the World's Fair, in 1903—if we do not meet before—may compile a reliable and complete roster of the comrades.

Yours, Truly, W. G. Dilts,
1509 Spring St., Little Rock, Ark.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

1898 Annual Reunion.

THE FIRST IOWA BATTERY ASSOCIATION met at Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 21st, 1898, at 8 o'clock P. M., at the New Ogden Hotel.

The meeting was called to order by President Sam Black, and on motion Comrade Dilts was appointed Secretary. Comrade Connor called the roll which was responded to by the following comrades:

Black, Sam ..... Burlington Junction, Iowa.
Barnesconie, Jno. ..... Grand Avenue, S. H.
Connor, W. F. ..... Dallas, Texas.
Coiner, Geo. A. ..... Silver City, Iowa.
Coffeen, Henry ..... Council Bluffs, Iowa.
Dilts, W. G. ..... Little Rock, Ark.
DeLong, Dan J. ..... Clarinda, Iowa.
Darlington, Sam B. ..... Northfield, Iowa.

Elting, Jas. ..... Mediapolis, Iowa.
Edwards, Geo. ..... Galesburg, Ill.
Frazier, Elliott ..... Morning Sun, Iowa.
Fox, Frank ..... Shawnee, Okla. Ter.
Liebert, Wm. R. ..... Archer, Neb.
Loughran, Ed. ..... Ames, Iowa.
Leggett, Jno. W. ..... Truro, Iowa.
Molesworth, Jas. ..... Melford, Kan.
Parker, B. F. ..... Torkio, Mo.
Spencer, Frank ..... Ashton, Dakota.

The Roster of those who have finally been mustered out since last Reunion was reported as follows:

No Bugle-Call Now Wakes Their Sleep.

Dean, Dennis W.	Gamble, Orin W.
Gregg, Jas. C.	Halstead, Wm. D.
Harwood, Geo. W.	Harwood, Ansdill
Kesler, Wm. H.	Kurts, Gottlieb
Rush, Ross	Roscoe, Chas. F.
Schwartz, Joseph	Starkweather, P. W.
Williams, Jno. M.	Young, Jerome

The proceedings of last Reunion having been furnished all members, it was deemed unnecessary to read the proceedings of that meeting.

After some desultory talk by Comrades Conner, Coffeen and Shumate, a Committee on Program for September 22nd, was appointed, consisting of Comrades DeLong, Leggett and Coffeen.

On motion, Comrade Coffeen was delegated to select a photographer and fix the time to have a group photograph made.

It being made known to those present that Mrs. Williams, the widow of our lamented Lieut. Williams, who died at Woodville, Alabama, during the winter of '63-64, would be with us on to-morrow, our president, Sam Black, was requested to meet her on her arrival and present her to the comrades.

On reassembling on the morning of the 22nd, the committee appointed to arrange program reported as follows:

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA, Sept. 22, 1898.

We, your Committee, appointed last evening to arrange program for present Reunion of our Association, do hereby submit the following, to comply with the expressed wishes of comrades, set forth in proceedings had and done last night.

First in order this morning being to assemble in a body at headquarters, Ogden Hotel, to meet and greet Mrs. Williams, widow of our late Lieutenant Jno. M. Williams, and extend to her our kind regards and a warm welcome in remembrance of her departed husband.

Second, After our social meeting with Mrs. Williams we are to remain in a body until we secure the services of a photographer to make a group picture of all the members of the Battery present at this meeting.

Third, No leaves of absence will be granted for the day, which is to be spent in social intercourse at these headquarters.

Fourth in order being election of Officers, and settlement with Treasurer Darlington, preparatory to his commencing another year in his life service as Commissary Quartermaster and Treasurer of the First Iowa Battery Association.

Fifth in order being to wind up the day's proceedings with a grand Camp-Fire in the G. A. R. Hall, or other suitable meeting place, secured by courtesy of Comrade Coffeen.

Friday morning all present will meet at early breakfast hour at these headquarters at Parade Rest, preparatory to leave-takings, etc., etc.

DAN J. DELONG,
JNO. W. LEGGETT,
HENRY COFFEEN.

The first part of the foregoing program was faithfully carried out with mingled feelings of joy and sadness. The Comrades all met with kindliest greetings Mrs. Williams, the widow of our late Lieutenant. By unanimous vote she was made an honorary member of our Association, and urgently requested to be present at all of our future meetings.

The lonely vigils of thirty-five years have scarcely blanched her cheek or whitened her hair. Her quiet cheerfulness gives no sign of the tragedy which entered her life so long ago, and took from it everything but Hope. For her own sake, as well as for the sake of her husband, we gladly put her name on the roll, and give her a cordial welcome.

The meeting at the photographer's was held, with twenty-one present, including several outside friends; and it is hoped that all Comrades that were present have received what must be to them full value for the small amount expended.

The Camp-Fire was held according to program at the G. A. R. Hall, and was called to order by President Black.

On motion Comrade Black was declared unanimously elected as President to serve until our next meeting, and Comrade Dilts was elected Secretary.

Mr. Virgil E. David, son of Lieutenant Virgil J. David, was present, and donated to the Association a memorandum of events noted by his father while in Camp Fletcher, at Burlington, Iowa, in 1861. The memorandum was accepted and the grateful thanks of the Comrades were extended to the son of our late Comrade.

Short talks were made by every Comrade present and extended reminiscences were given by Comrades Brown and Webb, of 1st Iowa Infantry, and also by Comrade Snow.

Resolutions were offered, thanking the citizens of Council Bluffs for their kind attention, the Press for pleasant notices of the Battery Reunion, the G. A. R. Comrades for the use of their well furnished and delightful hall, and the New Ogden Hotel for the kind and liberal manner in which they had provided for our comfort.

The Secretary was authorized to have printed the history of this Reunion, with Roster of all living members, and send to all Comrades as far as possible.

On motion it was ordered that upon adjournment this Association shall be subject to the call of the President and Secretary for another Reunion at such time and place as will best secure the largest attendance.

The meeting was then declared adjourned.

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The Roster of the Living.

Names of Comrades given below, with Post-Office added, so far as known:

Antrobus Bolivar	Beloit, Kansas.
Ake, Eli D.	Ironton, Mo.
Allen, Fletcher	Oxford, Neb.
Anderson, Johnny	.....
Bell, R. Z.	.....
Black, Sam.	Burlington Junction, Mo.
Burnside, John M.	.....
Bemis, Henry R	.....
Bartholomew, John	.....
Beckwith, A. C.	Elkhorn, Wis.
Barnesconi, Jno.	Grand Island, Iowa.
Barker, Benjamin	Corydon, Iowa.
Baker, David	
Curtiss, A. S.	Kansas City, Mo.
Clark, John S.	.....
Cooper, E. H.	.....
Conner, Wm. F.	Dallas, Texas—194 Main St.
Coiner, Geo. A.	Silver City, Iowa.
Clannen, John S.	.....

Cramer, Geo. . . . . Salem, Iowa.
Crabtree, Geo. W. . . . Polk City, Iowa.
Conine, Bartley . . . . . Kellerton, Iowa.
Coffeen, Henry . . . . Council Bluffs, Iowa.
Cockerham, Jesse F. . . . . Saylorville, Iowa.
David, Virgil J. . . . . Chicago, Ill.
Day, Henry . . . . . Maryville, Colo.
Dilts, W. G. . . . . Little Rock, Ark.
DeLong, Dan J. . . . . Clarinda, Iowa.
Darlington, Sam B. . . . . Northfield, Iowa.
Dillon, F. M. . . . . York, Neb.
Elting, Jas. . . . . Mediapolis, Iowa
Edwards, Geo. . . . . Galesburg, Ill.
Edwards, David . . . . Haddam, Kansas.
Fitkin, Thos. . . . . Charles City, Iowa.
Frazier, Elliott . . . . Morning Sun, Iowa.
Fortner, Church . . . . . Waverly, Iowa.
Fox, Frank . . . . . Shawnee, Okla. Ter.
Fenwick, James . . . .
Frazier, Jno. C. . . . . Knoxville, Iowa.
Frazier, Wm. . . . . Knoxville, Iowa.
Ferris, Sherman Z. . . . .
Gay, Wm. H. . . . . Quincy, Ill.
Gardner, Jos. M. . . . . Waterbleit, Mich.
Galer, W. M. . . . . Hillsboro, Iowa.
Hoffman, Jno. R. . . . Sulphur Springs, Ark.
Horr, H. R. . . . .
Hall, S. W. . . . . Nickerson, Kan.
Howard, Jno. . . . . Saylorville, Iowa.
Hawkins, Thos. F. . . . .
Hathaway, Ebenezer . . . . Afton, Iowa.

Irwin, Alfred	Winterset, Iowa.
Johnson, Hiram B.	.....
Kirby, Charles	.....
Liebert, Wm. R.	Archer, Neb.
Lockerby, Geo. W.	.....
Lyon, Andrew	.....
Loughran, Ed.	Ames, Iowa.
Longshore, David	Des Moines, Iowa.
Leggett, Jno. W.	Truro, Iowa.
Lonsdale, Jas.	Royalton, Minn.
Lewis, Joseph	.....
McClure, Andrew J.	Edgar, Neb.
Moody, Chas. D	Crescent City, Colo.
Martz, Richard	.....
Molesworth, James	Melford, Kan.
Morris, Shelton	Torrence, Kan.
Mack, Talbert	Dillon, Iowa.
Marrs, Jno. W.	.....
Murphy, Jas.	Des Moines, Iowa.
Madison, Bart A.	.....
Mink, Jno. J.	.....
Nagel, Webster	Saylorville, Iowa.
Olney, Clint E.	Marysville, Wash.
Odell, Ebenezer	.....
Patton, Wm. J.	.....
Parker, Benj. F.	Tokio, Mo.
Parker, Madison J.	Grenola, Kan.
Payne, Jas. P.	.....
Piersol, James	.....
Parrott, Jas. P.	West Union, Iowa.
Ritner, Frank	.....

Randall, D. D.	Monmouth, Ill.
Rice, Wm. A.	.....
Robinson, Wm.	Ft. Dodge, Iowa.
Rutherford, J. B.	.....
Roberts, Wm. B.	Plattsmouth, Neb.
Reeder, Wm. H.	.....
Stevens, Isaac	Bartley, Neb.
Shumate, Wm. H.	Soldier, Kan.
Stice, Oscar	Monmouth, Ill.
Sebring, Austin	.....
Skivinki, Edward	.....
Smith, Alexander	.....
Sterns, Chas. H.	.....
Spencer, Frank	Ashton, Dakota.
Stuttsman, Sol	Des Moines, Iowa.
Smith, Joel	.....
Sheik Jno. D.	.....
Simmons, Wm. V.	.....
Stratton, Ezra M.	.....
Stamper, Wm. H.	.....
Schroeder, Chas.	Henderson, Ill.
Temple, Jas. A.	Melrose, Wash.
Tosh, Geo. T.	Delmont, Pa.
Tate, Wm. F.	Fairview, Colo.
Townsend, Calvin	.....
Thomas, Evan	Agency City, Iowa.
Tedford, Thos. J.	.....
Thacker, Feilding T.	.....
Woodward, Alonzo	Biggsville, Ill.
Wells, M. G.	.....
Wells, A. G.	Indianapolis, Ind.

Wilcox, Benoni	Waverly, Iowa.
White, Leander J.	.....
Watson, Wm.	Pleasanton, Kan.
Wilson, Geo. W.*	Rushville, Ind.
Wilson, Ed. A.	Hopeville, Iowa.
Warren, W. B.	.....
Wiley, H. V.	.....
Williamson, Elijah	Thayer, Iowa.
Wright, Wm.	.....
West, Thos. H.	.....
Young, Edward	West Point, Iowa.

*Accidentally killed by a train at Rushville, Ind., in January, 1899.

Extracts from Lt. David's Diary.

WE ARE MUSTERED INTO SERVICE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17th—To-day the corps was mustered in by Capt. Chambers, U. S. A.

There were 115 mustered besides the Commanding Officer, Capt. C. H. Fletcher; myself, V. J. David, 1st Senior Lieutenant; O. W. Gambell, 1st Junior Lieutenant; J. A. Jones, 2nd Senior Lieutenant; A. Harbaugh, 2nd Junior Lieutenant, A. A. & Q. M.

Capt. Chambers had arrived on Thursday, but we not being ready that day, and he being engaged in the Cavalry Camp on Friday, we had to wait to date. We formed immediately after dinner and marched to town, myself commanding. We drew up in line in front of the Barrett House, where we met Captains Fletcher and Chambers and I delivered to the latter the muster roll. After reorganizing the company according as their names appeared on the roll, the officers by command, fell in on the right. Before we knew it, or I at least, we officers were through the examining surgeon's hands; indeed, I may say without knowing that important personage was on the ground. A very commonplace looking surgeon he was. By his looks I should have taken him for a veterinary M. D. By this professed judge of humanity the men were served somewhat differently. He would feel their arms from the shoulders down, examine their hands, look at their eyes, ask their age, the eagle eye of Chambers on him and them the while, and then pass them on.

This being through, Capt. Chambers, men at attention, said they had heard the "articles of war" read, (read in camp) and asked if they were willing to sub-

scribe to them. If any objected to step to the front. None so doing, he remarked he was about to administer the oath, swearing them in the service of the United States, and if any objected they could step to the front. There was no response to this, and he and the entire corps, commissioned and all, uncovered, raised the right hand to heaven during the reading of the following oath. (Omitted.)

After the oath was taken three lusty cheers were given. Only three of our men were rejected: one for advanced age, one for lack of years, and one for injuries.

ONE OF CAPT. FLETCHER'S JOKES.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th—Captain to-day in one of his boyish freaks sent the Sergeant-Major without cause, under a parole, to the wood-pile to cut wood. He soon had him return. It was a joke.(?)

He instructed me on to-morrow, I then coming on as officer of the day, to put 1st Lieut. Gambell, 2d Lieut. Jones, and as many of the non-commissioned officers as will make the 1st Relief, to put them on as such. A questionable order.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th—To-day I had my superior guard on. Gambell acted Sergeant and Jones Corporal. Sergts. Williams, Parks, Horr and Ijams and Corporals White, Dilts and Roe were the 1st Relief. The two other Reliefs were of the file.

WE START FOR THE FIRING LINE.

OCTOBER 19th—This forenoon about 10 o'clock I received two telegrams from St. Louis, as "Lieut. V. J. David, Commanding Battery." The first I opened was from A. A. G. McKeever and read thus: "St. Louis, October 18th—Lieut. David: Proceed without delay with your company to Jefferson Barracks on the boat of the Keokuk Packet Company. By order of Maj.-Gen. Fremont. C. McKeever, A. A. G."

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